



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

January 22, 2007

The Honorable Mike Johanns
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
14th Street & Independence, Southwest
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary,

This is to request that you designate San Bernardino County in the State of California, a disaster area due to extreme low temperatures and freezing conditions that began January 13, 2007. Though additional time is needed to realize the full effect of the freezing temperatures, current estimates are reflecting more than a 30 percent loss of naval orange, Valencia orange, grapefruit and avocado crops – this is likely to increase as more information is available.

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) requested that the county agricultural commissioner submit a *California County Agricultural Commissioner Disaster Report*, which is enclosed for your review. Preliminary damage/loss estimates exceed \$11 million. This damage will be devastating to affected producers, farm-related businesses and the general economy of the county. If you have any questions or need additional information, your staff may contact OES Director Henry Renteria at (916) 845-8510.

Thank you for your favorable and immediate consideration of this request on behalf of California's farmers and ranchers in dire need of USDA disaster assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold Schwarzenegger".

Arnold Schwarzenegger

Enclosure

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE/ WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

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77 East Rialto Ave., San Bernardino, CA 92415-0720

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COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

PUBLIC AND SUPPORT
SERVICES GROUP

EDOUARD P. LAYAYE
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer
JOHN G. GARDNER
Assistant Agricultural
Commissioner/Sealer

January 18, 2007

Henry R. Renteria, Director
Governor's Office of Emergency Services
P.O. Box 419047
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9047

Dear Mr. Renteria:

The growers in San Bernardino County experienced a major disaster to their crops from extreme low temperatures beginning on the morning of Saturday, January 13, and continuing through Monday, January 15, 2007.

I am writing to seek your assistance to request a Federal Disaster Designation for San Bernardino County due to these extreme low temperatures that caused significant damage to citrus, avocado and other crops.

The navel orange, Valencia orange, grapefruit and avocado crops all suffered more than a 30% loss. The growers of these crops will need assistance in recovering from this disaster. Other growers and ranchers have experienced losses but have some ability to recover on their own.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. If I can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me at 909 387-2115. I look forward to working with you and your staff in an effort to help growers in San Bernardino County.

Edouard P. Layaye

Edouard P. Layaye
Agricultural Commissioner/
Sealer of Weights and Measures

EPL/JGG

cc: Norman Kanold, ACA, PSSG
Keith Lee, AAO, PSSG
Denise Benson, Division Manager, SBC OES

MARK H. UFFER
County Administrative Officer

NORMAN A. KANOLD
Assistant County Administrator
Public and Support
Services Group

Board of Supervisors

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CALIFORNIA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER DISASTER REPORT

[illegible]

CALIFORNIA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER DISASTER REPORT

12. County's Total Crop Acres:

41,485 irrigated Census data
acres

13. Total Farms In County: (Use most recent U.S. Farm Census number.)		Number	
		1386 per 2002 Census	
14. Farms with Production Losses of:	Number		
100%			
90 to 99%			
80 to 89%			
70 to 79%			
60 to 69%			
50 to 59%			
40 to 49%			
30 to 39%			
20 to 29%			
Less than 20%			
15. Livestock and Poultry Losses of:	Number Destroyed/Damaged	3-Year Avg. Price (From Annual Crop Report)	Dollar Loss
Cattle (Excluding milk cows)			
Milk Cows			
Milk Production			
Sheep			
Hogs			
Poultry			
Aquaculture			
Apiary			
Other			
16. Farms with Physical Losses of:	Number		
Major			
Minor			
17. Farm Facilities Damaged:	Number		
	Destroyed	Major	Minor
Dwellings & Service Buildings			
Structures			
Machinery & Equipment			
Land Damages (Acres)			
Other			

Remarks: